

S47. REVIEW OF INCOME AND CHARGING

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing information on fees and charges. The report provided information on recommendations from the Accounts Commission regarding budget setting; the Council's approach to income from charges, and concessions. Appended to the report were: Questions for Councillors, an extract from the Accounts Commission publication – *Charging for Services: are you getting it right*; a summary of Falkirk Council Charges, and a summary of 2015/16 – 2017/18 Corporate Savings – Income. Danny Cairney provided an overview of the report.

The committee discussed that it would be useful to see comparator information from other councils to evaluate approach and practise against. Fiona Campbell highlighted the importance of considering the approach to charging together with that of a concessions policy and how this aligned with the Council's poverty strategy. She commented that this contextual situation would need to be taken into account whenever comparing local practice to that of other areas. Members stated that the outcomes of equality and poverty impact assessments should also be taken into account to identify if any particular group is disproportionately affected.

Decision

The committee agreed to request a further report to committee including benchmarking and comparator information from other authorities.